

Christina Mitchell HB 5147

To Whom It May Concern;

My cousins, or I, had not heard of congenital CMV before their second child was born on January 31, 2014. They lost her on February 12 due to CMV related complications. It only takes a few minutes of on-line research to discover that CMV is a virus, common and not harmful among toddlers, that is transmitted by exchange of body fluids. In those same few minutes of research it becomes clear that there are simple precautionary measures that pregnant women can implement to lower the incidence of infection. Women who want to expand their families deserve to know that there is a risk of infection and that there are simple measures they can take to significantly reduce that risk. I support Bill HB 5147 for CMV awareness, and CMV education for all pregnant women and CMV testing and treatment for newborns! It is also important for any of us working in settings that this virus is very common. I would like to have children one day and I am exposed to children carrying this virus daily. Education is the key to keeping mothers and babies safe!

Sincerely yours,

Christina Mitchell
Concerned family member and Special Education Teacher